

# Prom memories – good or bad – last lifetime

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hours before arriving to the prom, there is usually a pre-prom event family and friends, gather and get ready and take pictures.

Danielle Hart, a JCSU junior, describes what she calls the prom from hell. "Oh my God, it was the worst

night of my life," said Hart. "I felt like Cinderella, my dress was falling apart by the hour. When I lifted my arm up to dance, my strap popped off. The nightmare started when I got the dress made. The lady who made it messed up five times. My heel got caught in my dress, and I had

a hole in the bottom of my dress before I got to the prom."

To top off the terrible evening, Hart's date had the audacity to wear what today's younger generation calls a "young" tuxedo. "I was going to backhand my date," said Hart. "He came down my

steps looking like a penguin. His suit was too small. He had on a tuxedo with a tail. I told him he needed to go back up the steps to change clothes."

To put the icing on the cake Hart wore a baby blue chiffon dress, and what does her date bring in...an orange corsage.

"I specifically told the idiot to buy me a baby blue corsage," she said.

Common prom activities include dining, dancing, the crowing of a prom king and queen and socializing. Many Charlotte high schools rent ballrooms like at the Bank of America Stadium. Senior

Gerard Griffin from West Charlotte High School loved the atmosphere at the Carolina Panthers' home during Harding University High School's prom.

"I like to dress up every once and awhile," said Griffin. "The prom is a traditional event. "My outfit was nice and my girl was pretty."

## Hip hop pushing black women into vixen stereotypes

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our children, we realized that, as Black women, it was up to us to take a stand."

Nesga Burton, PhD, assistant professor of communications at Johnson C. Smith University, said media literacy is important for African Americans because many of the images of blacks are distorted and problematic.

"As viewers, we have the power," she said. "We can say that we're not going to buy a certain label's music if they keep promoting those images."

Negative portrayals of black women is one of the reasons that Burton doesn't know or care to know what channel BET is on her Direct TV subscription.

Young women differ in their opinions of hip-hop videos.

"I believe it is a shame that African American women degrade themselves in music videos. We come from women like Nefertiti, Angela Davis, and Maya Angelou, but we are shaking our butts. It's sad, it's almost like saying the 'n' word," said Jasmyn Jackson, a JCSU senior.

Another JCSU student, Jacquelyn Rucker, has a different view. "Black women in music videos are portrayed in a manner that they want to be seen," she said. "The music video industry is designed to be a form of entertainment, marketing and selling for individuals that choose to

engage in such activities that portray sex because sex sells."

Wright said seeing many women buying into the sexist attitude of the images displayed hurts her.

"I think that women should have a little more esteem and self-respect. She should definitely respect herself," she

said.

Victoria Elmore contributed to the reporting of this article

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## Cosby puts comedy on the back burner

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lowing race riots in 2001, when an unarmed black man was shot and killed by a white police officer trying to make an arrest.

Activists called for a boycott

until leaders agreed to pay more attention to police, racial and economic issues. Cosby's publicist has said Cosby wasn't supporting the boycott, but felt it wasn't an appropriate time for comedy.

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Please consult the CATS Trip Planner at [www.ridetransit.org](http://www.ridetransit.org) for bus routes nearest the meeting locations.



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Thursday, April 27, 2006

Matthews Town Hall  
232 Matthews Station Street  
Matthews, NC

\*Enter Eastland Mall through Entrance E, use the upper deck parking area at Bell. After entering the mall, go down the first hallway on the left and follow signs to the Activity Room.

#### WEST CORRIDOR OPEN HOUSE

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